

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03646 310556Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 /032 W

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R 310530Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5859

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 16

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USDOC WASHDC

DEPT OF TREAS WASHDC

TRUST TERR OF PAC ISLAND LIAISON OFFICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, ECIN, ECON, OCON, OTRA

SUBJECT: ASIAN PACIFIC COUNCIL OF AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
(APCAC) - JAKARTA CONFERENCE

REF: (A) JAKARTA 9737; (B) STATE 21342

1. SINGAPORE'S AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC), APCAC'S NEWEST MEMBER, ON JULY 1 DEBATED APCAC SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO ESTABLISH AN APCAC-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP. A CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT SUCH AN APPROACH AT THIS TIME BY APCAC TO ASEAN WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND THAT IT WAS, IN ANY
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EVENT, PREMATURE. INDEED, ABC BOARD (E/C COUNSELOR IS

GOVERNOR) IS OF OPINION THAT EVEN FORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES AND RESIDENT AMCHAMS WOULD BE PREMATURE. ABC CHAIRMAN ON JULY 12 COMMUNICATED THESE VIEWS TO E.W. BEEBY, APCAC PRESIDENT IN TOKYO AND TO AMCHAMS IN OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, ADDING THAT "WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ASEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS WITH THE GOS INFORMALLY TO DETERMINE FIRST, WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE TRULY UNDERWAY AND SECOND, HOW THE GOS FEELS WE MAY BE OF HELP TO ASEAN IN BRINGING THESE PROJECTS TO FRUITION. THESE EFFORTS WILL BETTER ALLOW US TO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW MORE FORMAL APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE."

2. ABC'S REACTION TO FOREGOING APCAC PROPOSAL, MIRRORS ABC ATTITUDE TOWARD MOST OTHER ITEMS PROPOSED BY APCAC SECRETARIAT FOR OCTOBER MEETING. FEELING HERE IS THAT APCAC'S PRIMARY IF NOT SOLE FUNCTION SHOULD BE TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH COCUSA, ENSURING THAT VIEWS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION ARE FORCEFULLY AND ACCURATELY REPRESENTED TO POLICY MAKERS IN USG. EFFORT OF SECRETARIAT TO ARROGATE TO APCAC OTHER ACTIVITIES IS VIEWED WITH CONCERN BY ABC BOARD AS POTENTIALLY DETRACTING FROM THIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.
HOLDRIDGE

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